

The Signature

Sigonella, Sicily

Vol. 20 No. 46



As of Nov. 18,
NASSIG percentage contacted, 47 percent.
\$130,000 raised so far
\$182,372 raised last year
\$200,000 projected goal

Nov. 21, 2003

Some plants you don't want to fool with

Courtesy NEPMU-7

Remember the movie "Invasion of the body snatchers"? Now, those pods were scary. Or what about the infamous tree by the bedroom window in Poltergeist? Ok, maybe I am dating myself. Perhaps many of you never saw either of those movies, so let's stick to reality.

Not all weeds are created equal, and some are indeed much worse than others. Take for instance the castor bean plant. Grows to more than eight feet tall, self-seeds, is drought resistant, is found throughout the world except in very cold areas - and to top it all off - it is poisonous. On the other hand, one man's weed is another man's ornamental plant. Some people grow castor bean plants in their gardens for their "tropical" appeal.

The castor bean plant is a native of tropical Africa, cultivated for its oil and bold foliage. It was grown in ancient Egypt for its lubricating and laxative effects. Castor oil is produced in large quantities throughout the world today and is still used in medicine. This plant is common in the US, and grows like a weed in frost-free areas around the globe. It is easy to find the plant along the roads near Sigonella.

In spite of its medicinal uses, the castor plant and the beans are poisonous and can be dangerous to children and pets that may be attracted to the interesting design of the large bean. A small number of beans can prove fatal, if chewed enough to release the toxin. Whether or not you have small children or pets in your household, it would be wise to learn how to recognize these poisonous plants and make sure there aren't any in

Castor beans, page 13

SDS rewards Etna Knights

By JO3 Steve Weaver
Staff writer

Students from Naval Air Station Sigonella's Stephen Decatur Elementary School were rewarded for their "knightly" behavior in a ceremony on Nov. 12 on the field behind the school.

One class per grade level was presented special certificates to acknowledge their Etna Knight behavior and adherence to the pillars of character.

Stephen Decatur Elementary School Principal Dr. Fran Austin said it's great to acknowledge good behavior. "It's good to have school-wide recognition of things," she said. "This was to celebrate a new program that we kicked off this year that's in support of the pillars of character, such as respect and honesty. It's a program that DoDDS supports, and what we've done is take that program and massaged it a bit to make it fit with our mascot, the Etna Knights. So you'll see throughout our school our expectations...Etna Knights are honest, Etna Knights look after property."

Each staff member gets 10 helmets to pass out when they see students working around school supporting each other. "An individual can get a helmet for their class, but it's given to the class because we try to make it like a team effort too," Austin said.

During the program, students dressed up as knights, wore crowns and capes, and held up banners with each pillar of character on it. After Capt. Ken Bitar, NASSIG executive officer, gave his opening remarks, a representative from each winning class was presented with their certificate. Then representatives were summoned to a colorful "roundtable" to be knighted. Before they passed through the tunnel of good character, the students were reminded of the pillars: being kind, gentle, honorable, dignified, trustworthy, honest, courteous, courageous, lawful, respectful, loyal and showing effort.

Knights, page 12

Today's Hometown Weather

Gary, IN



High 59° F - Low 42° F
Mostly Sunny

Story and photos by
JO3 Steve Weaver
Staff writer

The Operations Department (OPS) on Naval Air Station Sigonella is comprised of many dedicated professionals, some of whom work around the clock to make sure security systems are functioning, cargo gets to where it needs to be, aircraft are landed safely and serviced to complete their missions.

OPS consists of divisions such as Air Traffic Control (ATC), Mediterranean Express (MEDEX), Ground Electronics Maintenance Division (GEMD), and the Command Post. The department is responsible for much of the essential missions NAS Sigonella carries out as the "Hub of the Med."

"The mission here for the Operations Department is to support the commanding officer's desire to be the best fleet support activity that we can be here in the Mediterranean," said Lt. Cmdr. Arthur Coogan, assistant operations of-

Sigonella's Operations Department is the point on which the "Hub of the Med" revolves. In a two-part series *The Signature* looks at the work of the men and women who make this possible.

ficer. "Our primary goal here is to support the needs of Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Europe (CNE). We also support the mission of Air Services Coordinator Mediterranean (ASCOMED). Those are the two main admirals who we support here with supplies, manpower and logistics.

"Operations also controls the management of the airfield," Coogan continued. "We're responsible for liaison with the Italian Air force since we are a tenant agency of the Italians here. We work with them closely to try to get runway repairs completed in a timely manner. We coordinate with Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Four (HC-4), the rotating patrol squadrons, and the VR squadrons that come in for airspace and for any support that we can provide them."

Coogan has praise for the Sailors working in the operations department. "Our Sailors are awesome," he said. "I can't speak highly enough of the professionalism that they display and the enthusiasm that they hold for getting the mission done. It's certainly a very demanding and challenging place to work because you're working under the Italian Air Force rules and regulations. Everybody works hard. My hats are off to them.

They are a tremendous group of people to work with."

Some of these Sailors work in the department known as MEDEX, who take to the skies in the Med, delivering parts and passengers where they need to go. "MEDEX is Mediterranean Express...it's our nickname," said Lt. Johnny Williams, a pilot with the department. "Our slogan is 'when it absolutely positively has to be there.' It's a play on Federal Express (FedEx)."

The 11 pilots, four aircrewmembers and civilian contractors (who maintain the aircraft) of MEDEX make sure they get the mission done right. They use their two land-based C-26 "Metroliners," which are part of only seven used Navy-wide, to accomplish their missions. "Our mission is logistic support," said Williams. "We basically move people and parts back and forth throughout the Med. Generally our tasking comes from ASCOMED, which is based out of Naples." MEDEX delivers VIPs, parts to ships, mail and even dogs. "The veterinarians here deal with us a lot," said Williams.

MEDEX covers a wide area. "We go from Rota down to Africa. I've been as far as Israel, and as far north as England and Norway," said Williams. "[We] pretty much cover this whole part of the world."

Completing the mission is job one. "We have a ridiculously high completion rate," said Williams. "Part of that is because our maintenance

Ops, page 10



A member of NAS Sigonella's Mediterranean Express (MEDEX), checks the propeller of a C-26 "Metroliner" for any abnormalities after a mission.

Photo Safari: Out of the way places

By JO3 Steve Weaver
Staff writer

If your finger has been itching to trip the shutter on that new digital camera you just bought or your old 35mm is sitting around collecting dust, break them out for a workout with the Photo Safari.

The Photo Safari, which was started by photographer Marco Ficili in 1997, meets monthly to talk about upcoming excursions, then goes on the trip and follows it up with critiques of the work done on these safari trips.

The Photo Safari recently held an excursion into the Nebrodi Mountains to Biviere Lake, which is the largest lake in these mountains. The area is the largest concentration of woods in Sicily and offers an off-the-beaten-path look into Sicily.

About 20 miles from the town of Cesaro are roads manageable by most cars,

Safari, page 8



Photo by JO3 Steve Weaver



Direct Line

Capt. T.L. Davison
NASSIG
Commanding Officer

I met Ms. Rosemary Caldwell this past Monday.

Now, you will probably never meet Ms. Caldwell but she has contributed a lot to this base. Her son, LTJG Mark Caldwell, of VR-24, was stationed here at NAS Sigonella for just three weeks before his plane collided with another enroute back to the base from Marlorca, Spain. The two C-1A aircraft had seven service members on board...all perished in November 1983. The only thing remaining from the collision was the lifeboat.

Her contribution was also her sacrifice. Sometimes we take for granted what we do and how our loved ones feel about the jobs we do.

Our Navy and its partners will dominate the continuum of warfare from the maritime domain—detering forward in peacetime, responding to crises, and fighting and winning wars. War means sacrifice. Giving up one's life for their nation and for the very freedoms some take for granted. It is sometimes up to us to speak up for those who can't speak for themselves. That also means defending those under a dictator's rule that can't defend themselves.

As of Friday, Nov. 14, 399 U.S. service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq. Other coalition forces have received the following deaths: Great Britain—52; Italy—19; Denmark, Spain, Ukraine, and Poland have reported one death. On or since May 1, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 261 U.S. soldiers have died in Iraq. Since the start of military operations, 1,994 service members have been injured as a result of hostile action with 342 non-hostile injuries.

Last week, 12 Italian Carabinieri paramilitary police, five army soldiers and two Italian civilians killed during a terrorist attack in Nasiriyah, Iraq. In the attack, an explosive-laden truck approached and detonated in front of a building within the Italian compound in the southern Iraqi city. The last time Italy suffered military losses near this level was in 1961, when 13 Italian airmen were killed in Congo during an aid operation. Italy also lost aircraft in two separate incidents in the former Yugoslavia, leaving eight dead.

Let's remember these men who died for their country, our host nation. Doing what soldiers do...fighting the fight that needs fighting.

By the way, there is a stained glass window hanging inside the NAS II Chapel. On it is a C-1A flying through the clouds. The glass states, "Lord, guard and guide our men who fly." The names of the seven C-1A crewmembers that died in 1983 are listed on a brass plaque on the window frame. What a tribute to those who sacrificed everything!

Ms. Caldwell, on behalf of a grateful nation, I thank you for your sacrifice.

The Pulse

"Don't let your turkey turn on you!"

Courtesy USNH, Sigonella

Did you know there are three safe ways to thaw your Thanksgiving turkey?

In the refrigerator, in the microwave, and under cold water. Plan ahead to thaw your turkey in the refrigerator and allow 24 hours per five pounds of turkey. For example, if you are cooking a 15-pound turkey, you need two to three days to thaw a turkey in the refrigerator.

To thaw a turkey in cold water takes about 30 minutes per pound. Keep the turkey in its plastic wrapping and immerse in cold tap water. You need to change the water every 30 minutes. Be sure to plan enough time to thaw your turkey. For example, if you're cooking a 15-pound turkey, you need six to eight hours to thaw the turkey.

Thawing a turkey in the refrigerator:

8-12 pounds	1-2 days
12-16 pounds	2-3 days
16-20 pounds	3-4 days
20-24 pounds	4-5 days

Thawing a turkey in cold water:

8-12 pounds	4-6 hours
12-16 pounds	6-8 hours
16-20 pounds	8-10 hours
20-24 pounds	10-12 hours

Did you know that the safest way to cook stuffing for your Thanksgiving turkey is in a casserole in a 325 degree Fahrenheit or 163 degree Celsius oven? The internal temperature of the stuffing must reach 165 degrees Fahrenheit or 74 degrees Celsius. To prepare your stuffing safely, keep wet and dry ingredients separated and chill. Then mix wet and dry ingredients just before putting stuffing into a casserole or filling the turkey cavity. The stuffing should be moist, not dry, since heat destroys bacteria more rapidly in a moist environment. If you choose to stuff your turkey, make sure it is stuffed loosely—about ¾ cup of stuffing per pound of turkey. Cook the turkey immediately after stuffing and use a food thermometer to check the temperature in the innermost part of the thigh and in the center of the stuffing. Even if the innermost part of the thigh has reached a safe internal temperature of 180 degrees Fahrenheit or 82 degrees Celsius, the center of the stuffing inside the turkey needs to reach 165 degrees Fahrenheit or 74 degrees Celsius to prevent food borne illness.

Did you know that it could take up to five hours to completely cook your Thanksgiving turkey? Here's how to safely cook your turkey this Thanksgiving. Use a meat thermometer inserted into the innermost part of the thigh to tell when the turkey is done. The turkey should reach 180 degrees Fahrenheit or 82 degrees Celsius and the stuffing should reach 165 degrees Fahrenheit or 74 degrees Celsius. If the stuffing is roasting in a casserole dish, be sure to check it for a final temperature of 165 degrees Fahrenheit or 74 degrees Celsius. After cooking your Thanksgiving dinner, be sure to keep turkey, stuffing and other hot items hot—that is above 140 degrees Fahrenheit or 40 degrees Celsius—before serving. To find out more about cooking your turkey, check out the USDA website at www.usda.gov.

Approximate cooking time unstuffed:

4-6 pound turkey breast	1 ½-2 ¼ hours
6-8 pound turkey breast	2 ¼-3 ¼ hours
8-12 pound turkey	2 ¾-3 hours
12-14 pound turkey	3-3 ¾ hours
14-18 pound turkey	3 ¾-4 ¼ hours
18-20 pound turkey	4 ¼-4 ¾ hours
20-24 pound turkey	4 ½-5 hours

Approximate cooking time stuffed

8-12 pound turkey	3-3 ¾ hours
12-14 pound turkey	3 ¾-4 hours
14-18 pound turkey	4-4 ¼ hours
18-20 pound turkey	4 ¼-4 ¾ hours
20-24 pound turkey	4 ¾-5 ¼ hours

SECURITY BLOTTER

CRIME STOPPER'S HOTLINE

624-6389

Nov. 10 - Nov. 16

The following incidents were reported and categorized as follows:

- Traffic accidents without injuries - 11
- Traffic accident with injuries - 1
- Car break-ins - 4
- DUI - 1
- DUI's 2003 - 51
- DUI's 2002 - 35

Commanding Officer
Capt. Timothy L. Davison

Public Affairs Officer
Lt. Steve Curry
currys@nassig.sicily.navy.mil

The Signature editorial office is located at:
Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily
PSC 812 Box 3020
FPO AE 09627
Telephone: 095-86-5440; DSN 624-5440

Deputy Public Affairs Officer

Alberto Lunetta
alunetta@nassig.sicily.navy.mil

Asst. Public Affairs Officer

J01 Craig Coleman
colemac@nassig.sicily.navy.mil

Editor

J02 (SW) Brian Johnson
johnsobl@nassig.sicily.navy.mil

Staff Writers

AN Michelle Hartgraves
watkinsm@nassig.sicily.navy.mil

J03 Steve Weaver
weavers@nassig.sicily.navy.mil

Message from the Secretary of the Navy

the Honorable Gordon R. England

As your secretary and chief safety officer, I want to reemphasize the priority we must place on protecting the safety of our most precious asset—every Sailor, Marine and civilian employee within the Department of the Navy.

In order to achieve defense secretary Rumsfeld's two-year, 50 percent mishap reduction goal, a three-tiered approach was outlined three months ago to dramatically improve the safety culture within the Department of the Navy (REF A). Since then, we have seen little improvement.

My message today is directed at every leader within the department—not just commanding officers, but everyone supervises the actions of another. We must change the value we place on safety and together turn the tide. For the most part, we have expertly managed the mechanisms and processes of our safety programs, but today I need your help. Today each of us must begin to lead a dramatic change in our safety culture, incorporating safety and health considerations into all job duties and operational decisions.

My safety policy for the Department of the Navy is quite simple. Every command, every work center, every unit will have a safety culture built on three principles: leadership commitment, leadership courage and leadership integrity. Today's leadership for safety must exhibit a solid commitment to communicate safety policy and to personally abide by it. They must verbalize a belief in the value of safety and create an environment that encourages open, frank communication. They must have the courage to set and enforce tough and sometimes-unpopular standards, to allocate safety resources (the right people and sufficient funding), and to provide quality training to ensure their personnel learn correct safety practices. Today's leaders must have the integrity to hold themselves and their people accountable for violations of safety standards and to admit their own safety failures so others will do likewise. An effective leader must also openly praise and celebrate safety accomplishments.

While the CNO, CMC and I are leading this mishap reduction effort for the Department of the Navy, we know that, in the end, success or failure depends on you. The CMC and CNO are establishing comprehensive mishap reduction plans to guide the department in achieving the SECDEF 50 percent reduction goal by the end of FY05. These plans will require leadership and resources—we must be committed to both. We will develop and track metrics to accurately measure our performance, and our level of success will be shared with you.

I pledge to you my full support and commitment. Through our collective leadership efforts we will dramatically elevate the safety culture throughout the Navy and Marine Corps. It will take a decisive and targeted level of effort to achieve a 50 percent mishap reduction in two years, but if the effort saves your life or the life of a shipmate, fellow Marine or co-worker, there is no better time spent.

I commend each of you, your families and your loved ones for the sacrifices you make to preserve the freedom of our great nation. Ensure this message receives the widest dissemination and is posted on all required reading boards.

LIVING PATTERN SURVEY

All military spouses and single parents (NASSIG/TENANT Commands) are invited to participate on the Living Pattern Survey (LPS). The purpose of this survey is to determine the Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) paid to the Service members stationed in high cost overseas locations. COLA helps maintain purchasing power so you can purchase about the same level of goods and services overseas as in the United States. It is noted that there are significant actual cost differences between U.S. and European Common Market goods and services. COLA is intended to maintain maximum standards.

The questionnaire is designed to identify where and how you purchased goods and services. The viewpoint should be from the actual householder, who typically runs the household. The information obtained from this questionnaire is used in planning and completing a separate Retail Price Data Collection that forms the basis for prescribing your COLA. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU PARTICIPATE!**

The LPS survey can be access on our website address: <https://207.132.131.134/manpower>. The survey takes approximately 20 to 30 minutes to complete

But, It's Too Difficult ...

By Chaplain
Thom Dansak
Command
Chaplain

Some years ago, I remember reading that a great counselor bemoaned the fact that the biggest reason people did not get better during their counseling was because of their own selves. He reported that people are prone to making excuses to avoid the pain and discomfort that necessarily accompany changing habits or attitudes. I am not a famous counselor, but as a chaplain I notice that same thing. In providing advice and counsel to others, it is interesting how many will block or negate what I suggest with "yes, but..." or "I am not sure I can do that..." Changing routines of behavior or attitudes is not done in a day. It does require much effort and discipline...two things some of us do not use enough. Notice, I said we do not use it enough. I truly believe we have these powers but do not use these powers we have.

An example from the physical world might help. I was a smoker...at my best, I could do three packs a day. I made a decision to quit (actually I made that decision several times). But, the discomfort and the craving would always win. I would grant myself permission to light up again. "Too hard." "It is making me too tense." One excuse after another. Finally, I told myself, "It's supposed to be hard to do. It is supposed to be uncomfortable." When it was rough, I kept saying the same things to

myself..."this is the way it is suppose to be when you are changing such a habit." I finally made the change. I am a non-smoker.

The same is true with our emotional stresses as well. Boredom. Loneliness. Homesickness. I encourage people who feel these things to force themselves to become more active little by little. Take a tour. Work out in the gym. Sign up for a college course. The response I sense in these people is interesting: "You meant I have to DO something??? But I don't feel like it because I am bored, lonely, homesick. I don't have the energy." They prevent themselves from moving forward because they do not want to go through the difficulties of changing the habit or attitude. They do not want to use the tools they have: the tools of effort and discipline.

I am saddened that so many seem to think that the greatest motivators of life are our emotions when a greater motivator could be believing in ourselves and our ability to make decisions that can change us. We can decide to do what we do not feel like doing (using effort and discipline) or we can decide NOT to do what we feel like doing (again, using effort and discipline).

Our life is not something that just happens. It is also something we can guide and direct to a great extent. Watch for your own excuses. Challenging yourself is supposed to be a bit uncomfortable. If you do not challenge yourself, you should not expect many changes for the better.

Our God did not create us to just "endure" life. He wanted us to LIVE life to the best and fullest. We can all decide to do that.

NAS Sigonella Worship Opportunities

Catholic Mass

Saturday 5 p.m. Chapel (NAS II)
Sunday 9 a.m. Chapel (NAS I)
Sunday 9 a.m. in Italian 41st
Stormo Chapel (NAS II)
Sunday 11 a.m. Community Center (Minceo)

Protestant Traditional Worship

Sunday 9 a.m. Chapel (NAS II)

United Pentecostal Church, International

Sunday 12 p.m. Chapel (NAS II)

Protestant Worship

Sunday 9 a.m. Community Center (Minceo)
Sunday 11 a.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Sunday 1 p.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Church of Christ

Sunday 3:30 p.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Jewish Shabbat Service

Last Friday of the month 5 p.m. Chapel (NAS I)

Weekdays

Daily Catholic Mass 11:30 a.m. (NAS I & II Chapels)
Wednesday Protestant Bible Study

4:45 p.m. (NAS II Chapel)
For more details, call 624-4295 or 624-2947.

This civilian enterprise (CE) newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services overseas. Contents of *The Signature* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the United States Navy. The appearance of advertising in this newspaper, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or *City Crier, Inc.*, of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. A confirmed violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser will result in the refusal to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected. *The Signature* is published weekly by *City Crier, Inc.*, PSC 812 Box 3020, Shawn Kelley, Publisher. Telephone: 349-391-6027. Editorial submissions are welcomed from all NAS Sigonella departments, divisions and tenant commands. Editorial submissions should be sent to the Public Affairs Office via e-mail at any of the addresses located below the staff's names, guard mail stop #68 or hand-delivered no later than close of business Friday preceding expected publication date. All articles submitted by non-staff members will be considered contributing writers. *The Signature* will not publish any anonymous articles. All advertisements in this publication are the property of *City Crier, Inc.* Any reproduction of advertisements in *The Signature* is unauthorized without the written consent of the publisher.

NAVY NEWS

U.S. Sailors, Marines arrive for training exercise in West Africa

From U.S. 6th Fleet Public Affairs

DOUALA, Cameroon (NNS)—U.S. Sailors and Marines aboard the High Speed Vessel SWIFT (HSV 2) arrived here Nov. 13 to participate with local military units in West African Training Cruise 2004 (WATC 04), a biannual exercise aimed at enhancing security cooperation between U.S. and participating West African nations. SWIFT recently concluded training in South Africa.

Conducted since 1978, WATC consists of a series of bilateral interactions between the United States and individual African nations, including Cameroon, Ghana, the Gambia, Morocco, Senegal, Sierra Leone and South Africa.

Some of the planned training includes small boat training, riverine operations and amphibious raids. Approximately 100 U.S. Marines and 50 U.S. Sailors are participating in the training. In Douala, Marines attached to Small Craft Company, Headquarters Battalion, 2nd Marine Division from Camp Lejeune, N.C., are embarked to participate in training.

In addition to the benefit of increased interoperability between U.S. and host nation militaries, WATC 04 also provides an ideal opportunity for the United States and host nations to experiment with cutting edge equipment and concepts, such as use of HSV 2 in riverine and small boat operations, out-of-area use of Norway Air-Landed Marine Expeditionary Brigade (NALMEB) equipment, and the use of a lightweight water purification system being tested by the U.S. Marine Corps war fighting lab.

HSV 2 is a wave piercing, aluminum-hulled, commercial catamaran vessel with military enhancements, such as a helicopter flight deck with the capability to support night flight operations and to refuel helos at sea, a small boat or unmanned vehicle launch and recovery capability, modifiable berthing compartments, enhanced ramps for military vehicles and an enhanced communications suite.

HSV 2 is commanded by Cmdr. Mark Sakaguchi. The ship's crew is homeported in Little Creek, Va.



A South African Air Force Oryx medium transport helicopter touches down aboard High Speed Vessel Swift (HSV 2) during joint exercises conducted as part of the West African Training Cruise 2004 (WATC 04).

Recap CORNER

An enclave is on the way

On Nov. 17, we started to remove the enclave fence that surrounds the western support complex that includes the Administration Building, Chapel and the Community Center. This is the first step toward opening the Administration Building in March. This will not change the traffic circulation pattern because that won't change until we can complete the road around the complex, with the rest of the western parking area, next October. It will add construction traffic at the main gate but that should be the smaller trucks used in finish work.

How SIG 2.3 Affects You: We are in the home stretch for new parking areas. As shown on the attached slide, new parking areas are in sight and their completion dates are highlighted on the slide. When we started the MEGA III Recapitalization of NAS 1 we had 776 parking spaces on base, including 40 parallel parking spaces along Halsey Road. In addition to the 172 spaces that will remain, we have or will create 895 new spaces for a total of 1,067 spaces. This is an increase of 291 parking spaces (about the number of spaces in front of the Exchange and Commissary now), even without any parking on Halsey Road as we had before. As an added bonus, we will have a parking area for those who need to visit the Pass & ID Window by the main gate in the first week of December this year. The parking areas will be delivered in phases at the times shown below:

Remaining Parking	EXIST	172 Spaces
NEX-DeCa Parking	EXIST	374 Spaces
West Parking South	JAN 04	98 Spaces
Gate Parking Lot	JUL 04	109 Spaces
K&E Housing Parking	OCT 04	35 Spaces
West Parking North	OCT 04	88 Spaces
AFN-BOQ Parking	DEC 04	90 Spaces
MWR Parking	APR 06	101 Spaces
TOTAL SPACES		1,067

If you have any questions about SIG 2.3 construction, contact LT Darren Hale at haled@nassig.sicily.navy.mil.

New satellite terminals to help get news, info back to the States

By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (NNS)—Senior coalition leaders in Iraq are about to increase their ability to keep America informed.

Two state-of-the-art ultracompact satellite terminals — along with a two-man team to set them up and get them working — are on their way to Iraq. Starting later this month, the satellites will beam up-to-the-second news feeds and video footage back to the States.

Plans include making the feeds available to military news broadcast outlets, such as the American Forces Radio and Television News Center and American Forces Network, as well as to commercial television outlets. The Defense Media Center, located at March Air Reserve Base, Calif., is providing the equipment and manpower support.

With these terminals, senior U.S. officials will get "the word" back to the States without delay, no matter where they happen to be in Iraq, said Allison Barber, special assistant to the acting assistant secretary of defense for public affairs.

"By virtue of their portability, these terminals will offer our top people in Iraq broadcast quality video satellite connectivity in a 'go anywhere' package that breaks down into just three airline checkable cases," Barber said.

The satellites are an especially important way to get stories on what units are doing in Iraq back home to U.S.-based units and families, according to the Army Master Sgt. John Ming, part of the team bound for Iraq to set up the equipment.

The new military backhaul capability from Iraq is a natural extension of a broadcasting tradition that goes back over 60 years, said Larry Sichter, DMC's affiliate relations chief.

"American military broadcasters have been on hand at nearly every major engagement since 1943," he said. "When the Allies invaded North Africa, it was an Armed Forces Radio newsmen who recorded the opening salvos."

"The DMC will always be bringing the American Forces Network, with stateside news, sports and entertainment, to wherever American troops are overseas. Now besides providing that always vital 'touch of home,' we'll also be able to bring back a look at what our troops accomplish."

"I think it will really establish us as a news presence in Baghdad," added Ming. "This gives the military a real chance to show not only that somebody was injured, but there are all these other things that are going on to rebuild the country."

Ming said the satellite system takes about 15 minutes to set up, and with the satellite provider ready to establish the link, "...we can just show up, acquire the satellite link and start transmitting from that point."

Not all tables will be full at this year's holiday feasts

The Chief Petty Officer's Association, First Class Association, and the chapel community ask you to help make everyone's holiday table a bountiful one by donating one or more of the following items. You can place all donated food into the big yellow box at the commissary or drop it off at the chapel.

HOLIDAY BASKET FOOD DONATION LIST

- 15 oz. can of corn
- 15 oz. can of yams
- 14.5 oz. can of green beans
- 15 oz. can of fruit cocktail
- 16 oz can of cranberry sauce
- 10 1/2 oz can of turkey gravy
- 13 oz boxed mash potatoes
- 6 oz box of stuffing mix
- 3 oz box jell-o
- 1.5 oz pack of yam glaze sauce mix
- 6 oz graham cracker pie crust
- pie filling (21 oz apple or 29 oz pumpkin)

Fallen Sailors remembered

Photo by AN Michelle Hartgraves



Ms. Rosemary Caldwell and Chaplain Thom Dansak take a moment to discuss the stained glass window that was dedicated to her son and six others who died in November 1983. The seven perished when the two C-1A "Traders" collided with each other coming back to base from a mission in Spain. The window is located inside the NAS II Chapel. Underneath is a small brass plaque with the names of the crewmembers that died.

News Briefs

Holiday Craft Bazaar

A Holiday Craft Bazaar will be held Nov. 22 at the NEX parking lot from 12 to 5 p.m. Twenty-five dollars guarantees you a table and a chance to make extra cash. Signups start today, Nov. 14. For more information call MWR at 624-5271.

Holiday Gift Certificates

Give a friend a DeCa certificate this holiday. Go to the website www.commissaries.com and click on the grocery bag. Anyone can buy them but only authorized shoppers may spend them. Numerous denominations are available.

Congrats to TSC Sailors

Congratulations to AW1(NAC) Scott Gemmill, Senior Sailor of the Quarter; SK2(AW/SW) Tesfaye Shiferaw, Senior of the Quarter and IT3 Chad Mulligan, Blue Jacket of the Quarter. Gemmill serves as the Command Services Division Leading Petty Officer and the Command Sponsor Coordinator for TSC. Shiferaw is in charge of all supply and budget matters and Mulligan handles all computer administrative work as well as stands watch and maintenance around the building.

Vet Clinic Holiday Hours

The Vet Clinic will be closed Nov. 27 and 28 for the Thanksgiving holiday and Dec. 1 for inventory. The clinic still operates four days a week on Mon-Wed and Friday.

Morning Star Dancers

The Morning Star Dancers will be performing Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. in the theatre. The event is free to all U.S. ID cardholders. Watch Native American performers share story telling, native music and dancing. Call MWR at 624-5187.

NCTSI Recognizes Outstanding Sailor

During a recent visit to NCTSI Detachment Four, Capt. Scot Miller, commanding officer NCTSI headquarters San Diego took the opportunity to present YN1 Kimberly Ferguson with the Senior Sailor of the Quarter award. Ferguson, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y. has been with Detachment Four for one year and is the command's leading petty officer and senior administrative assistant.



By Alberto Lunetta
Signature Staff

Italian News

Sicilian culture and lifestyle

Harriet Lewis to perform in Sicily

Don't miss the opportunity to enjoy a Thanksgiving weekend of cool jazz. Plan to attend the concert of Harriet Lewis, a prestigious American Jazz and blues singer who will be performing in Sicily from Nov. 27 through 30. The concerts will take place in Catania on Nov. 27 at 9:30 p.m. at the *Sala de Curtis* Theatre in via Duca degli Abruzzi n. 6/a, in Siracusa, Nov. 28 at 9:30 p.m. at the *ASAM* Theatre located in via St. Pietro n. 20 and in Messina, Nov. 29 and 30 at 9:30 p.m. at the *Annibale M. Di Francia* Theatre in piazza Spirito Santo n. 1.

Lewis was born in Philadelphia. She began singing in several Baptist church choirs at the tender age of 12. She attended the Sherwood Recreation Center in Philadelphia where she studied dance including Ballet, Tap, Modern Jazz, African and Modeling. Harriet's distinguishing factor was her ability to fuse these dance styles into her vocal performances that won her several amateur competitions.

In 1973, Harriet formed her own band "Posh" and was selected as the best female Jazz Singer in Philadelphia.

In 1980, Harriet joined the U.S. Army. While stationed at the West Point Military Academy, she also taught theater and voice.

Harriet was also performing for dignitaries from Japan, Africa, Korea, France and the U.S., along with prestigious musicians such as Charlie Byrd Trio, Gregory Hines, George Benson, Earl Klugh, Jennifer Holiday and many others.

After her arrival in Stuttgart, Germany, Harriet began performing at clubs and hotels. While in Germany she got the chance to meet Pops Wilson, one of

the best vibraphonist living in Europe, with whom she recorded the successful album "A Touch of Elegance."

During her career, she opened the concerts of prestigious music stars such as Luther Vandross, Mariah Carey, The Weather Girls, Eric Clapton, Lisa Stansfield, Crash Test Dummies, Michael Bolton, Ray

Charles and Michael Jackson.

Pipps Guarnera on Hammond, Vince Vallicelli on drums, James Thomposon on saxophone, will accompany Harriet.

For more information and tickets call *The Brass Group* at 095-7465174 or 347-6372592 or Ticket Box Office at 095- 72225340.



Talented Philadelphia-born jazz singer Harriet Lewis will be performing in Sicily from Nov. 27 through 30.

Classic Music concert in Catania

Acclaimed pianist Pascal Rog , a worldwide ambassador of the French repertoire, will perform in Catania on Nov. 26 at 9:15 p.m. at the Church of San Francesco all' Immacolata that is located in piazza Dusmet (near Elephant square).

Critics wrote about him: "Rog  exemplifies the finest in French pianism; his playing of Poulenc, Satie, Faure, Saint-Saens or Ravel in particular is characterized by its elegance, beauty and delicate phrasing. His name is synonymous with the best playing of French repertory in the world today."

Born in Paris, Rog  debuted in London and Paris the age of 17 became an exclusive DECCA recording artist. During his brilliant career, he received many prestigious awards such as two Gramophone Awards, a Grand Prix du Disque and an Edison Award, for his interpretations of the Ravel and Saint-Saens concertos.

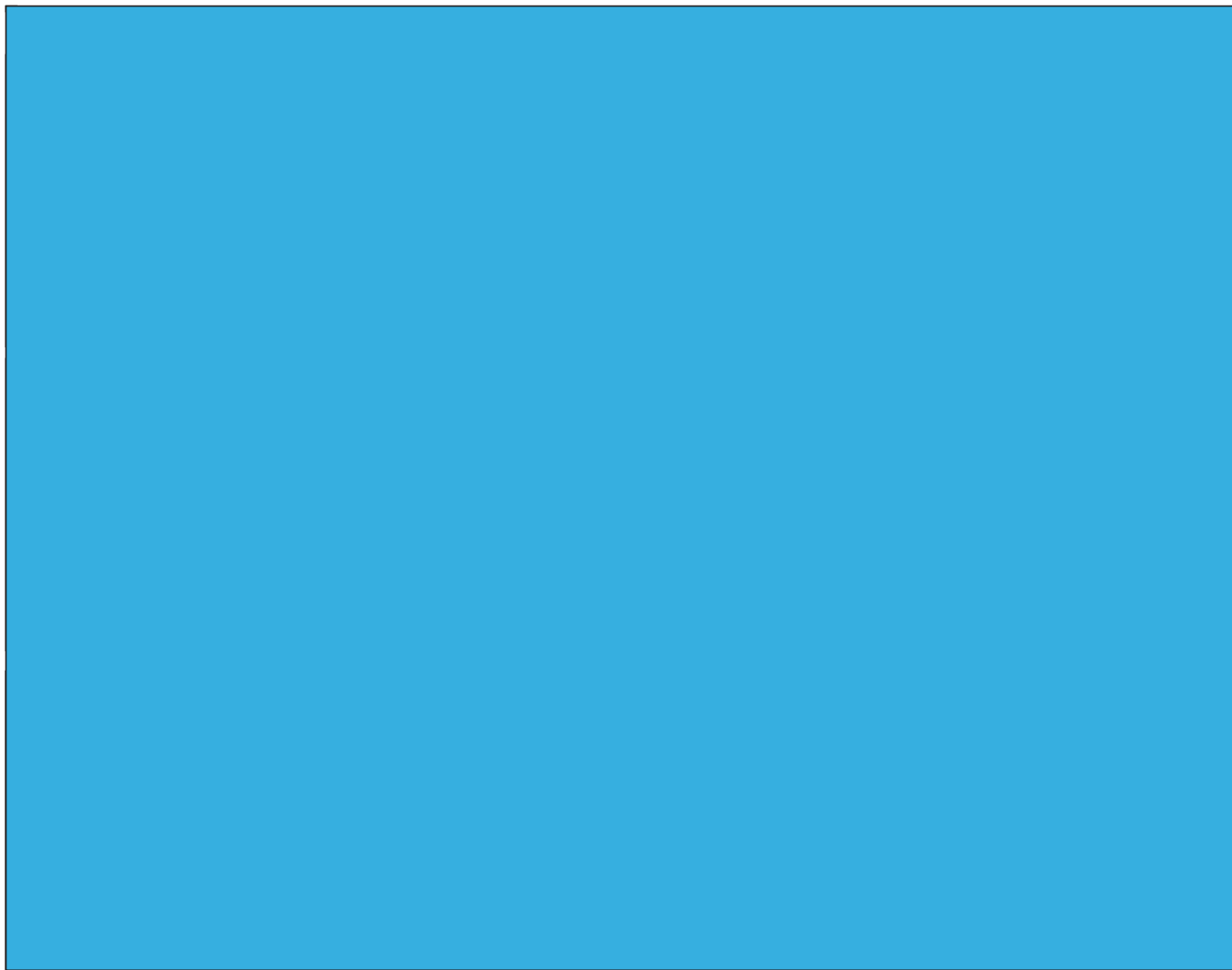
Also Rog  recorded a Debussy and Bartok cycle with the London Symphony Orchestra.

Over the years, Rog  has earned a worldwide growing reputation for both the technical brilliance and interpretive depth of his playing. He performed in the United States, Europe, Canada, Latin America, Australia and especially in Japan with some of the most famous international orchestras including the Philadelphia Orchestra, Montreal Symphony, l'Orchestre de Paris, l'Orchestre National de Radio France, the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, the NHK Symphony Orchestra Tokyo, Vienna Symphony Orchestra, l'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande Geneva, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra and all the major London orchestras.

At the Catania concert, Rog  will present works by Gabriel Faur , Maurice Ravel, Erik Satie, Francis Poulenc and Claude Debussy. For more information and tickets call 095-321252.

Photo courtesy of Catania Brass Group

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
COMMUNITY CALENDAR						21 Catania by Night Liberty Call 624-5187
23 AU Grand Drawing until Jan. 1 Call 624-4271	24 Frozen Turkey Bowling 12:30 a.m. Toss some turkeys for prizes Take 5	25 Thanksgiving Dinner 6 to 8 p.m. all parents welcome BLAST	26 Pre-Teens Turkey Toss prizes for top three tosses Youth Activies Center	27 Happy Thanksgiving	28 Thanksgiving Swim It Off prizes for most laps in one hour register at NAS II Pool	29 Decoration Day Breakfast help decorate for the holiday a free breakfast for all decorators. Take 5
30 Agrigento Valley of the Temples & S. Leone Beach ITT Call 624-4396	1 Dec. Intermural Basketball Pre-Season Starts Call 624-2710	2 PTO Elementary School Book Fair 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. School library	3 PTO Elementary School Book Fair 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. School library	4 PTO Elementary School Book Fair 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. School library	5 PTO Elementary School Book Fair 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. School library	6 Chapel Christmas Play & Contatta
7 Randazzo Market and Valley Galfina Wine Tasting ITT Call 624-4396	8 Elementary PTO Meeting 2:30 p.m. room B-25	9 Ballet Classes Offered 205 Youth Center or Mineo Rec Center	10 Mineo Holiday Arts & Crafts Day 5 to 6 p.m. Mineo Rec. Center	11 Recreational Boxing every thursday 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Activity Zone Call 624-4295	12 Base ICR 8 A.M. TO 3 p.m. ICR class room Call 624-4291	13 Jingle Bell 10K Run registration 7:30 to 8 a.m. youth run 8 :15 a.m. adult run 8:30 a.m. NAS I Fitness Center Capt. Cup event Call 624-4483/5243
14 Holiday Word Find all day Take 5	15 Holiday Gift Giveaway enter the drawing for a free gift Take 5	16 Giselle by Adolphe Charles Adam Ballet 4:30 p.m. ITT Call 624-4396	17 Rainbow Playgroup 10 to 11 a.m. 205 Hpusing	18 Christmas Gift Wrapping Mineo Rec Center	19 Ornament Making Day 4 p.m. BLAST	20 Arm Wrestling Competition 12:30 p.m. Take 5



Word Find

The first Thanksgiving and other Turkey Day facts

D G C V G J G P L L N G H S W S Q P G D W K J R C
P N Q U M I N T E R A E T V E P T L M K C P S E O
S I A Q C M C T D O P T D H K N R Y M U E B X W S
S H G L V U W E N V E I S L I W S M D U A N A O A
J S S E G P M A I S A I L M A D R O F D A R B L M
Z I N R R N P B U N D K B G C W F U D B H C Y F O
T F C W E M E H E A A R C A R O T T S S O R E Y S
P U Y O A T C F R R L T M X I I K H Q J P A K A E
A R R W L A S C O E S X I E T F M U G Z K N R M T
G G F N S O A B M H N S N R V S A O F Z I B U S D
J V J S I Q N G O G C D Z L U N I C T N E T E G
F H A W K P Y Y V L S R X H T P H T A B S R F G R
O M T P I C S J E H Q R U O H Q S I A E D R N A E
V C H Z U V R H I P U T O H P W W O O R R Y I B K
F A E Y O M A P D A Q E Y Z C R L S G C A S A B N
M O D Z S W P S T I U R F D L I W A C N X P U A A
Y N A P M O C K C O T S T N I O J S O Z I H E C P
S T E E B E D P I T M C G D Z P F S R I K M D S S
H O B B A M O C K N L S E Y C H S A N K C R R N H
H I A C I R E M A A P N E X D R E M P O E F O A D
I T P W A K N U M K G I S W E Q Z F H S D I I J F
K O B L U V R S V L O P E T E U L E S E N O O S I
S T A N D I S H A I C G S T Z X E I E O D E E R H
N A R R A G A N S E T Y U O A C N H G N I T N U H
S L A N H L D C N X O V G E M G T C G M E Z F E V

MAZE
MINTER
NARRAGANSET
ONIONS
OYSTERS
PILGRIM
PLYMOUTH
PUMPKIN PIE
PURITAN
RADISHES
SAMOSET
SEPARATIST
SQUANTO
STANDISH
TURKEY
TURNIPS
WAMPANOAG
WILD FRUITS

ALDEN
AMERICA
BEETS
BRADFORD
CABBAGES
CARROTS
CHIEF MASSASOIT
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
CLAMS
COLONY

CORN
CRANBERRIES
CUCUMBERS
DEER
DRESSING
DUCK
ENGLAND
FARMING
FISH
FISHING

FRIENDSHIP
GEESE
HAM
HOBBAWOCK
HOPKINS
HUNTING
JOINT STOCK COMPANY
LOBSTERS
MASSACHUSETTS
MAYFLOWER

TRIVIA

- 1) Where did the band "Devo" come from?
- 2) What man was the Mayor of New York City from 1933 until 1945?
- 3) What amendment to the U.S. Constitution permits the Federal Income Tax?
- 4) In 352 BC, Chinese astronomers recorded the earliest known sightings of what astronomical occurrence?
- 5) What was the comedy singing group on radio's "Jack Benny Program" called?

(Answers on page 13)

Movie Connection

AMC's Theater Schedule

Friday, Nov. 21



6 p.m.
Matrix Revolutions (R)**



8 p.m.
Matrix Revolutions (R)**

Monday, Nov. 24



5:30 p.m.
Jeepers Creepers 2 (R)*



8 p.m.
Once Upon a Time in Mexico (R)

Saturday, Nov. 22



1 p.m.
Matchstick Men (PG-13)



3:30 p.m.
Duplex (PG-13)**



6 p.m.
Underworld (R)**

Theater Closed Tuesdays

Wednesday, Nov. 26



5:30 p.m.
Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star (PG-13)*



8 p.m.
Matrix Revolutions (R)

Thursday, Nov. 27



4 p.m.
Duplex (PG-13)



6 p.m.
Underworld (R)

Sunday, Nov. 23



1 p.m.
Brother Bear (G)



3:30 p.m.
The Fighting Temptations (PG-13)**



6 p.m.
Matrix Revolutions (R)

Friday, Nov. 28



5:30 p.m.
School of Rock (PG-13)**



8 p.m.
Cold Creek Manor (R)**

** Future Re-release ** Sneak Preview *Last Showing
(All times and movies are subject to change. For more information on the schedule, call the movie hotline at x4248)

Shout

DoDDs students talk about what's happening in the community

LinguaFest2003

By Daniela Zyskowski

The first ever Lingua Fest was held in Oberwesel, Germany. Mrs. Elizabeth Thornton was in charge of it, and organized it.

Six people from Sigonella had the wonderful chance of attending it. These six people were Maria Guillorme (chaperone), Kristin Bremer (freshman), Hailey Lamb (freshman) Cecile Robertshaw (freshman), Rosa Fishman (senior), and myself, Daniela Zyskowski (freshman).

When the five of us students first found out about the Lingua Fest through Mrs. Pisingan and Mr. Iozzia, we realized we had to work to get accepted in it. After filling out medical forms and writing an essay on why we deserved to go, we found out two weeks later the five of us were going! We were all so excited!

We left Nov. 1 at 2:30 p.m. from the Catania Airport. Lucky for us, my mother was our chaperone.

We arrived in Wiesbaden at 8:00 p.m. Our bus drove us to the American Arms Hotel.

The next day, we boarded a bus along with other students from other schools to take us to our youth hostel where we would be staying.

Once we arrived, we were assigned our rooms, and given nametags, handbooks, and T-shirts.

The next morning was the first of three days of our hard work and fun. We all had breakfast at 8 a.m., lunch at noon, and dinner at 6 p.m. Between our meals we had our classes, walking tours to the town of Oberwesel, and evening sessions.

The classes given were: press core, function al raps, dance (all different cultural dances), an Arabian class, *Buenos Dias Espana*, and *The Vespa*.

Rosa Fishman, Cecile Robertshaw, and I were in *Buenos Dias Espania*. This class was a Spanish News Program that had different stories in it. Cecile was a news presenter, while Rosa and I performed a song from Operacion Triunfo, similar to the American Idol.

Kristin and Hailey were in the Italian class titled "The Vespa." In this class, all the students spoke about the history of the Vespa, and performed an Italian song.

The evening sessions were Latin Aerobics/Dance, Karaoke, Study Time, and Culture Bowl.

After three days of visiting the town of Oberwesel, making new friends, and working hard hours in our classes, we were all ready for showtime!

Everyone showed what he or she had at the final presentation, which was held Nov. 5. It was a success! Afterwards, there was a dance. The adults were nice enough to let it last three hours. We all danced from 9 p.m. to midnight.

Sadly, the next day, those of us from Sigonella had to leave at 3 a.m. We did not get to stay for the closing ceremony.

But we were so happy to leave Germany with great memories of friends we'd made, what we did, what we saw, and many jokes.

I'd like to give a special thanks to Mrs. Elizabeth Thornton, Mrs. Inge Burck, Ms. Maribel Bastidas, Ms. Roberta Pennasilico, Mr. Paul Hernandez, Mrs. Maria Guillorme, Doctor Groomes, Mrs. Pisingan, Mr. Iozzia, and our parents.

"Master and Commander"; Is It Naval History?

By Brian S. Chi, Naval Historical Center Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Historians, curators and museum education experts from the Naval Historical Center (NHC) and Naval Historical Foundation (NHF) recently had the opportunity to view Fox's newest movie, "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World," starring at a special 20th Century Fox and Navy screening in Arlington, Va.

Twentieth Century Fox is hopeful that the film, which stars Russell Crowe, will be a blockbuster.

Many NHC and NHF members wondered if the movie would be historically accurate or pure Hollywood, and have any lessons for modern Sailors.

"Master and Commander," based on British author Patrick O'Brian's set of 19th-century naval novels, follows Royal Navy Capt. Jack Aubrey (Crowe) and the crew of his ship HMS Surprise as they sail out to see the richness and strangeness of life on the far side of the world, against the backdrop of the Napoleonic Wars.

The movie was well received by the NHC members of the audience who deemed it, in general, very historically accurate.

"I was impressed by 'Master and Commander.' I think it was the best portrayal of life in a warship during the Age of Sail that has been produced in Hollywood. The language, the uniforms, the rigging of the ship, the customs of the Royal Navy of that period, the portrayal of the captain by Russell Crowe, all seemed quite authentic to me," said Dr. William S. Dudley, director of NHC.

Dudley is a recognized authority on early 19th century naval warfare, and edited the first two volumes of the Centers "The Naval War of 1812: A Documentary History."

"It colorfully evokes life aboard a warship in the age of sail," said Dr. Michael Crawford. Head of the Center's Early History Branch, which studies this period, Crawford is the editor of the third volume of "The Naval War of 1812: A Documentary History."

Another Early History Branch historian, Christine Hughes, said, "I liked the movie. I thought it gave a fairly accurate depiction of naval life of the period."

Karen Hill, Navy Museum educator, has a unique insight on 19th-century sailing having recently spent two weeks on the U.S. Brig Niagara on the Great Lakes, where the crew ran the ship as if during the War of 1812. "The Niagara is a brig, so she is smaller and designed differently than the ship used in 'Master and Commander', but all of the commands that I heard in the film with regard to her sailing and handling were the same that I heard, repeatedly," Hill said.

Fri. Nov. 21

Spend an evening in Catania, admiring the magnificent monuments from the Greek to Medieval periods. Afterwards, stop at the historical area full of pubs, bars and restaurants. Call ITT at x4396/x4777 for more information.

Sat. Nov. 22

It's Holiday kickoff time with Liberty. They will give you a ride to the Operations Seasons Greetings show in the NEX parking lot on NAS I. Call Take 5 at x5602 for more information.

Explore Siracusa, the oldest town in Sicily. Visit Castello Eurialo and Museum Paolo Orsi (one of the most important museums in Europe). Relax with a meal on Ortigia Island. Call ITT at x4396/x4777 for more information.

Sun. Nov. 23

Visit Ficuzza, home to the Royal Hunting Palace of Ferdinand III of Borbone. Wind down at the Corleone Winery with lunch and wine sampling. Call ITT at x4396/x4777 for more information.

Mon. Nov. 24

BINGO. Grab your doobers and head on over to the Crater Pub on NAS I for some BINGO. You could win \$1,500. Cards go on sale at 5:30 p.m., games begin at 6:30 p.m.

Tues. Nov. 25

Toss some turkeys at Take 5. There will be prizes for all turkey bowlers. Stop by at 12:30 p.m.

Wed. Nov. 26

Stop by the NAS I #170 Barracks at 7 p.m. for Liberty's on base game night. Try your luck at spades. The winner will take home a DVD, CD or t-shirt. Free to play and win.

It's National Cake day. Stop by Take 5 to enjoy a free piece of cake while supplies last. For more information on Take 5 events, call x5602.

Thurs. Nov. 27

Experience the Donna Fugata Winery located in Marsala. The family is opening their wineries for connoisseurs to enjoy the DOC wines made from the grapes grown in their vineyards. Call ITT at x4396/x4777 for more information.

The holiday hours for both fitness centers are as follows: Nov. 28 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Dec. 24 from 5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Dec. 25 from noon to 6 p.m., Dec. 26 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Dec. 31 from 5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Jan. 1 from noon to 6 p.m. and January 2 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Safari from page 1

but more suited for Sport Utility Vehicles. Along the way up the mountain are free-ranging cattle, pigs and other wildlife. On a clear day, the sights of the beautiful town of Cesaro can be seen as well.

Once off the bumpy road, and into the serene silence of a this peaceful area, a plethora of photographic opportunities can be had. Cattle graze all over the area, rattling their cowbells and regarding the strange visitors with a weary eye. Further down the path, black and white pigs scurry about doing what pigs do best. The famous "Sanfratello" horse can also be seen in this area.

Ficili enjoys getting photographers (experienced and not so experienced) together for fun and informative trips such as this. "It's not easy to organize something to go around as a group," he said. "This way it's easier to see a different kind of Sicily because you usually see the classic places." This includes nature, castles and villages...the not really touristy places.

"One thing about [Ficili] is that he takes you to places that you don't normally hear about," said Photo Safari-goer Blair Ford. "The first trip that we went on with him was to Sperlinga. We never heard of Sperlinga."

"He sets up a local guide and it's somebody from the area that knows a lot about it, and they pass on a lot of information to you," said Ford. "You don't hit any of the normal tourist traps. If he does take you to a city, it's a small town or a small village."

Having time to take the photos you want is also a benefit. "You can take your time to take photographs you want," said Marsha Ford, "versus being herded through like cattle."

You don't have to be the best photographer or have the latest CMOS sensors or new fangled gizmo cameras to attend. "He goes over the basics," said Blair Ford, "and what he wants is people to ask questions on how to do things...how to compose a shot and things like that. He doesn't care if you come with a point and shoot or a top of the line model. He just wants to see you shoot."

Ficili enjoys holding these photo safaris. "I like to do it because I like photography, I like to meet new people and I like to learn something," he said. He sometimes stays in contact with old safari attendees. "Old participants who are now in the states usually send me postcards for Christmas or Easter time."

So if you are interested in getting out that old AE-1 or that new D-100 for some great photo opportunities, give Photo Safari a try. Check out the Preview for dates and times.



Photo by JCS Steve Weaver



Photo by JCS Steve Weaver



Photo by JCS Steve Weaver

(Top) A statue of Jesus overlooks the town of Cesaro. A helicopter from Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Four (HC-4) placed the statue on the hill.

(Above) Blair Ford composes a shot down a wooded stream area at the Biviere Lake preserve in the Nebrodi mountains.

(Right) A calf wearily eyes the photographers who have made their way from Sigonella. Cattle, pigs, horses and other wildlife present a wide-array of photographic opportunities.

SPORTS

Sig Soccer performs well in Italian tournament

By JO1 Craig Coleman
Staff writer

It may well be that many Americans can't tell you how long a soccer field is, or which team holds the World Cup, but the profile of soccer in America is improving—as is the skill level of American players. The world watched the American men qualify as one of the top 16 teams in the world in the last World Cup and American women dominated the last two Women's World Cups. They also know about a 14 year-old American considered by many scouts to be the best young prospect in the world.

Sailors at NAS Sigonella have always been considered ambassadors to our host nation and the Sigonella base soccer team is doing its part by competing with Italian teams in the "beautiful game."

Sig Soccer competes in Group A of the Charlie Brown Tournament of Gravina, a suburb of Catania. They are the only American squad in the event. After six of the 11 games in the group competition the Americans are in fourth place with a record of 2-2-2. The highlight of the season so far was a thumping 4-0 victory over Real Catania.

Sig Soccer Coach Ray Del Pesche has been satisfied with the team's performance. "The team has been playing up to standard, producing a lot of positive gameplay," Del Pesche said. "They play disciplined soccer. Very structured. This is seven-versus-seven, which is a new way of playing for most of them."

The team, which practices three times per week with games on Wednesdays, is composed of base personnel. But those expecting them to be an inexperienced group just out for fun will learn that these Americans know their way around a soccer field.

"They know the game," Del Pesche

said. "They know that when someone goes forward someone else has to stay back and play defense. When someone moves out of position someone else has to cover."

That sophistication carries over to team tactics. The various possible combinations of defenders, midfielders and attackers is complicated by the nature of this competition. Instead of the normal 11 players per team, this is a seven-versus-seven tournament.

"Everyone in the league plays a 2-2-2 formation," Del Pesche said. But, because the playing surface is smaller than a regulation soccer field, the players move around into other formations. "Everybody (on Sig Soccer) can play forward and everybody can play defense," Del Pesche said. The team has great versatility.

That versatility is expressed by the Sig Soccer attack. There seems to be no one player creating the team's goals. "They all contribute to the team's performance," said Del Pesche. "There is no go-to-guy. The team rotates who takes the shots."

Del Pesche talked with pride of the team's respectable goal differential—the difference between the number of goals a team scores and the number they concede. Much of the credit for Sig Soccer's -1 goal differential was given to goalkeeper Elmer Quinn.

"Elmer has matured in his position," Del Pesche said. "He has gone from a very bad season last year to the start of what could be an outstanding season this year." Quinn has conceded only 10 goals in five games.

His performances have been helped by the team as a whole, according to Del Pesche, their versatility is allowing them to attack and defend as a team.

With four games left in the group stage, Navy USA, as they are known to their Italian competitors, have an excellent chance of qualifying for the "Super Cup," the next round of the tournament. "We have the potential to be top-four finishers," said Del Pesche. "The chance of making it into the next round of the tournament is definitely there."

Although Sig Soccer is having one of its most successful seasons, the coach is hoping to improve America's standing in what is considered by many to be a European or South American game, at least on the local level. "Soccer is a funny game," Del Pesche said. "Sometimes things don't go well and other times they do—all you need is a touch (of the ball) and—you never know."

Girone A standings

Team	GP	Pts	GD
NAS	7	19	+33
Sandur	5	11	+15
Black Devils	7	9	even
Navy USA	6	8	-1
Pub Saloon	5	7	-4
Daily Exepr.	6	7	-8
Atl. Manzell	6	7	-15
Aquilotti	5	7	-18
ICAM	5	6	+11
Catasegnal	6	6	-3
Real Catania	6	3	-10

Midshipmen bring out the coach

Photo by PH2 Damon J. Moritz

Navy head football coach Paul Johnson runs onto the field with the team following half-time during the U.S. Naval Academy's homecoming game against Delaware. The Midshipmen fell 21-17 to the Blue Hens marking their record at 5-3.



The Lane

Thanksgiving Swim It Off

Friday Nov. 28, at the NAS II pool you can swim off your huge turkey dinner. prizes given for most laps in one hour. Call 624-4334 or 624-5335.

Sigonella Circuit Training Club

Become a member of Sig's newest weight training club. Get in shape the right way. Club runs until Nov. 21 so you still have time to get started. Participate at either of the Sigonella fitness centers. Call 624-2710 for more information.

Intramural Basketball Pre-season

Start getting your game on, on the court before the season starts. Pre-season begins Dec. 1. Both men's and women's leagues. regular season begins Jan. 6.

5K Off Road Turkey Trot

Saturday, at 8:30 a.m. at the NAS I Fitness Center. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. This will be a cross-country race run through an orange grove. Entry fee is \$10 prior to race or \$15 on the day of the race. T-shirts awards and free pancakes after the race.

Ops from page 1



A member of NAS Sigonella's Mediterranean Express (MEDEX), checks the tires of a C-26 "Metroliner" for any abnormalities after a mission. MEDEX, which is part of NAS Sigonella's Operations Department, provides support throughout the Mediterranean and European theaters for the movement of VIPs, DOD personnel, mail, parts, cargo and supplies.

(Left) A Sailor mans the ground control position in the Air Traffic Control tower on the NAS II flightline. The air traffic controllers work side by side with the Italian Air Force in the tower.

group is so good and the aircraft is so good. Since I've been here I don't know that we've ever not completed a mission. It's a source of pride. It's kind of where MEDEX comes from. When it absolutely positively has to be there, give us a buzz and we'll knock it out."

Making sure aircraft from MEDEX and anyone else who lands at NAS Sigonella do so safely is the job of the ATC department. Their mission at Sigonella is "for the safe expeditious flow of all NATO and American air traffic," said AC1 Michael Presnell. "We also provide flight assistance through our flight planning branch for assisting pilots with all the charts and publications they require to do their job." They also do this 24 hours a day.

"What we have here at Sigonella is ground control up in the tower, radar final Ground Controlled Approach (GCA), a flight planning dispatcher and we have a flight planning supervisor," said Presnell.

"[Ground control] basically talks to all the aircraft while they're on the ground. The ground control gives them their clearances and things of that nature."

Also, when inclement weather strikes, the controllers use GCA radar to talk the aircraft down.

These controllers have to be knowledgeable and qualified at their jobs. "Basically how it works for us air traffic controllers is that you have to get qualified at every single position," said Presnell. "No matter how long you have been in the Navy, once you qualify on that position and you go to your next command, you start back at the very bottom. You have to get qualified on the same positions again."

Working hand in hand with the Italians, such as the ones who supervise in the control tower,

can get tricky. "We're working side by side with the Italian Air Force," said Presnell. "So you've always got that communication barrier that makes some things difficult, but we're consistently striving to make things easier for them as well as for us. One of the problems that we run into is they do some things a little different than how we do them. So we just have to come to an agreement. It works out pretty well."

Presnell is happy to be part of ATC. "I've been here almost two years come January," he said. "I must say the morale since I first got here has increased 100 percent. You can just tell by the people in the division. We have an awesome chain of command...very supportive and helps us with anything that we need."

Grab an issue of next week's Signature for more on the NAS Sigonella Operations Department.



A member of NAS Sigonella's Mediterranean Express (MEDEX), closes the main hatch of a C-26 "Metroliner."

Knights from page 1

Fifth-grader Rosa Velasquez was on the leadership team who held the banners with the pillars of good character. "This is what the Etna Knights represent," said Velasquez as she pointed to the banner. "All the Etna Knights are supposed to follow each one of these." She explained how to get one of the coveted helmets. "If we're walking quietly around the halls, we'll get a helmet...or if we help somebody who doesn't know their way, we'll get a helmet."

"I was in a room the other day and I saw a student didn't have a chair and another student went across the room to get a chair for this student," said Austin. "I went back to that room this morning and said good Etna Knight behavior and gave that wonderful student a helmet."

Austin said the students are responding well to the program. "They love it, they really like it quite a bit," she said. "Particularly the older ones get real competitive. We have knight puppet for [each] grade level. They win it for the month so they get real



Photo by JCS Steve Weaver

(Above) Students the Stephen Decatur Elementary School gather around the colorful "roundtable" to be knighted as Etna Knights.

(Right) Fran Austin, principal of the Stephen Decatur Elementary School presents a certificate to the class representative of a winning class.



Photo by JCS Steve Weaver

competitive, they don't want lose it. Our hope is for each class to get it throughout the year to show that each class is having knightly behavior."

"This is a first for us as this year we're developing as a new school," Austin said. "The teachers put it together and came up with the idea. We get a lot of ideas because our teachers come from different school all around the world. We get our heads together and [come up with] a lot of good ideas."

They will hold these recognitions ceremonies quarterly. "Our theme this year is 'Together We Can,'" Austin said. "It's true, we can't do it alone without our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), and our command...all the support we get. It's wonderful."

"When we have discipline problems at school, we always turn straight to our expectations as say were you being honest, were you being forthright, were you being kind," Austin continued, "and the whole school uses it."

Castor beans from page 1

your yard or playground.

Plant Description. The stalked leaves consist of usually **eight** (6-11) radiating, pointed leaflets with slightly serrated edges and prominent central veins. Many varieties are green (Figure 1), but some are reddish brown. The flowers are green and inconspicuous, but may be pink or red in the pigmented varieties. The soft-spine fruits containing attractively **mottled seeds** (Figure 2) are distinctive features of the plant.

Symptoms of poisoning include nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, bloody diarrhea, fever, headache, cramps, thirst, trembling, sweating, vascular collapse, convulsions, and shock. A severe allergic reaction may occur in certain individuals following skin contact with broken seeds.

It is advisable to keep children away from the castor bean plant and from its seeds. If they ingest the leaves or the seeds they may get poisoned. The highly

toxic seeds beaded into necklaces may cause skin irritation on contact. Dogs are very susceptible, and have been known to ingest the beans and succumb to the poison. Other pets may be affected as well. If you suspect your pet has ingested castor beans you should contact your veterinarian immediately.

There are many other poisonous plants to keep in mind. Since the holidays are approaching, remember that the milky sap of Poinsettias is irritating to the skin, eyes, and mucous membranes, and may cause nausea and vomiting. Also worthy of note are English Ivy, Wild Black Cherry, Oleander, and even beautiful Azaleas. For more information on poisonous plants visit these websites:

<http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/ento/PLANT.HTM#INTRO>.

<http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/plants/index.html>

<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/poison/poison.htm>



An up close look at the castor beans. (Figure 2)



The castor bean plant is a native of Africa and is common in Sicily and frost-free areas of the U.S. (Figure 1)

Trivia Answers

- 1) Akron, Ohio
- 2) Fiorello La Guardia
- 3) 16th
- 4) Supernova
- 5) The Sportsmen